General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 98 (*d*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/56/561/Add.4)*]

56/197. Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/201 of 20 December 2000 on the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1] in which it, inter alia, decided to proclaim 22 May, the date of the adoption of the text of the Convention, as the International Day for Biological Diversity,

Recognizing the importance of the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in its decision EM-I/3 of 29 January 2000,[2] of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the subsequent signature of the Protocol by one hundred and three parties to the Convention by 5 June 2001, and the ratification thereof or accession thereto by nine parties to date,

Expressing its appreciation for the generous offer of the Government of the Netherlands to host the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol, which will be held at The Hague from 8 to 26 April 2002,

Urging the parties to the Convention to undertake thorough preparations to advance progress on all issues that are included in the agenda of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;[3]

2. *Notes* the outcome of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, which addresses the appropriate access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of its utilization, hosted by the Government of Germany from 22 to 26 October 2001;

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[1] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[2] See UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/3 and Corr.1, part two, annex.

[3] See A/56/126.

3. *Also notes* the outcome of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held at Nairobi from 1 to 5 October 2001;

4. *Welcomes* the fact that one hundred and eighty-one States and one regional economic integration organization have become parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1] and urges States that have not joined the Convention to become parties to it, without further delay;

5. *Calls upon* parties to the Convention to become parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety[2] as soon as possible;

6. *Encourages* the conferences of the parties to, and the secretariats of, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[4] the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[5] and other international instruments related to the environment and sustainable development, as well as relevant organizations, especially the United Nations Environment Programme, including, as appropriate, the involvement of the Environmental Management Group, to continue their work on enhancing mutual complementarities, with full respect for the status of the secretariats of the conventions and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, to strengthen cooperation with a view to facilitating progress in the implementation of those conventions at the international, regional and national levels and to report thereon to their respective conferences of the parties;

7. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding its programme of work for forest biological diversity, and encourages the parties to and the secretariat of the Convention to cooperate with the United Nations Forum on Forests, inter alia, with regard to respecting, preserving and maintaining the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles, in accordance with article 8 (*j*) and related provisions of the Convention;

8. *Takes note* of the fact that the provisions of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights[6] and the Convention on Biological Diversity are interrelated, in particular with respect to intellectual property rights and relevant provisions of the Convention, and invites the World Trade Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization, within their respective mandates, to continue to explore this relationship, taking into account the ongoing work in other relevant forums and bearing in mind decision V/26 B of the Conference of the Parties;[7]

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[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[6] Ibid., vol. 1869, No. 31874.

[7] See UNEP/CBD/COP/5/23 and Corr.1, annex III.

9. *Invites* all funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the implementation of the programme of work;

10. *Requests* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

11. *Calls upon* parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to settle urgently any arrears and to pay their contributions in full and in a timely manner so as to ensure continuity in the cash flows required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat;

12. *Looks forward* to the contribution of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, bearing in mind the decisions taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its tenth session;

13. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

90th plenary meeting
21 December 2001